

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a series of dialysis procedures with a catheter system which includes (i) a guide catheter having a distal guide orifice, a proximal guide orifice, and a guide lumen extending therebetween, (ii) an original conduit having an original distal orifice, and (iii) a replacement conduit having a replacement distal orifice, comprising the steps of:

securing the guide catheter to a body of a patient so that the guide catheter is at least partially positioned within a blood vessel of the body;

positioning the original conduit within the guide catheter, while the guide catheter is secured to the body, so that the original distal orifice is advanced through the guide lumen and out of the distal guide orifice, whereby the original distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel;

performing at least one dialysis procedure on the patient using the original conduit while the original conduit is positioned within the guide catheter and the original distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel;

removing the original conduit from the guide lumen of the guide catheter after the original conduit becomes at least partially occluded by blood clot build-up;

after the original conduit removing step, positioning the replacement conduit within the guide catheter, while the guide catheter is secured to the body, so that the replacement distal orifice is advanced through the guide lumen and out of the distal guide orifice, whereby the replacement distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel; and

performing at least one dialysis procedure on the patient using the replacement conduit while the replacement conduit is positioned within the guide catheter and the replacement distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the original conduit is a working catheter, further comprising the step of:

securing the working catheter to the guide catheter prior to the original dialysis procedure performing step.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein (i) the original conduit is a tube segment which is attached to a pusher, and (ii) the pusher is attached to a closure member, further comprising the step of:

securing the closure member to the guide catheter prior to the original dialysis procedure performing step.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the guide catheter has a tissue ingrowth member secured thereto, and the securing step includes the steps of (i) advancing the guide catheter into the body so that the tissue ingrowth member is positioned in subcutaneous tissue of the body, and (ii) leaving the guide catheter within the body for a period of time sufficient to cause the subcutaneous tissue to become affixed to the tissue ingrowth member.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of locking the original conduit to the guide catheter prior to the original dialysis procedure performing step and after the original conduit positioning step.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of unlocking the original conduit from the guide catheter prior to the original conduit removing step.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of locking the replacement conduit to the guide catheter prior to the replacement dialysis procedure performing step and after the replacement conduit positioning step.

5 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the guide catheter includes a blood flow valve configured to restrict blood and air flow through the guide lumen when neither the original conduit nor the replacement conduit is located within the guide lumen of the guide catheter, further comprising the step of:

10 restricting blood and air flow through the guide lumen with the blood flow valve after the original conduit removing step and before the replacement conduit positioning step.

09716814-112000

9. A catheter system for use in a body of a patient, comprising:
a guide catheter having a distal guide orifice, a proximal guide orifice, and a guide lumen extending therebetween;

a tissue ingrowth member secured to an outer surface of said guide catheter and configured to facilitate fibrous tissue growth therein, whereby subcutaneous tissue of said body becomes affixed to said tissue ingrowth member when said tissue ingrowth member remains in contact with said subcutaneous tissue over a period of time;

an original conduit positionable within said guide lumen of said guide catheter, wherein said original conduit has an original lumen and an original distal orifice; and

a replacement conduit positionable within said guide lumen of said guide catheter, wherein said replacement conduit has a replacement lumen and a replacement distal orifice;

wherein said original distal orifice is positioned on an original distal segment of said original conduit which extends out of said distal guide orifice of said guide catheter when said original conduit is positioned within said guide lumen of said guide catheter, and

wherein said replacement distal orifice is positioned on a replacement distal segment of said replacement conduit which extends out of said distal guide orifice of said guide catheter when said replacement conduit is positioned within said guide lumen of said guide catheter.

10. The catheter system of claim 9, wherein said guide catheter includes a blood flow valve configured to restrict blood and air flow through said guide lumen of said guide catheter when neither said original conduit nor said replacement conduit is located within said guide lumen of said guide catheter.

11. The catheter system of claim 9, wherein said original conduit includes an original catheter.

12. The catheter system of claim 11, wherein:
said guide catheter includes a first locking component, and
said original catheter includes a second locking component which cooperates with said first locking component to lock said original catheter to said guide catheter.

13. The catheter system of claim 12, wherein:
said replacement conduit is a replacement catheter, and
said replacement conduit includes a third locking component which cooperates with said first locking component to lock said replacement conduit to said guide catheter.

14. The catheter system of claim 9, wherein said original conduit includes a tube segment.

15. The catheter system of claim 14, wherein:
said guide catheter includes a first locking component,
said tube segment is attached to a pusher,
said pusher is attached to a closure member,
said closure member includes a second locking component, and
said first locking component cooperates with said second locking component to lock said tube segment to said guide catheter.

16. A method of performing a series of medical procedures with a catheter system which includes (i) a guide catheter having a distal guide orifice, a proximal guide orifice, and a guide lumen extending therebetween, (ii) an original conduit having an original distal orifice, and (iii) a replacement conduit having a replacement distal orifice, comprising the steps of:

positioning the guide catheter within a body of a patient using a tunneled catheter technique whereby the guide catheter becomes tunneled within said body;

positioning the original conduit within the guide catheter, while the guide catheter is tunneled within the body, so that the original distal orifice is advanced through the guide lumen and out of the distal guide orifice, whereby the original distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen;

performing a first medical procedure on the patient using the original conduit while the original conduit is positioned within the guide catheter and the original distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen;

removing the original conduit from the guide lumen of the guide catheter after the first medical procedure performing step;

after the original conduit removing step, positioning the replacement conduit within the guide catheter, while the guide catheter is tunneled within the body, so that the replacement distal orifice is advanced through the guide lumen and out of the distal guide orifice, whereby the replacement distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen; and

performing a second medical procedure on the patient using the replacement conduit while the replacement conduit is positioned within the guide catheter and the replacement distal orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the original conduit is a working catheter, further comprising the step of:

securing the working catheter to the guide catheter prior to the first medical procedure performing step.

5

18. The method of claim 16, wherein (i) the original conduit is a tube segment which is attached to a pusher, and (ii) the pusher is attached to a closure member, further comprising the step of:

securing the closure member to the guide catheter prior to the first medical procedure performing step.

10

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the first medical procedure is selected from the following group: a hemodialysis procedure, a peritoneal dialysis procedure, a plasmapheresis procedure, a TPN administration procedure, a medicinal infusion procedure, a blood transfusion procedure, and a blood sampling procedure.

15

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the first medical procedure is the same type of medical procedure as the second medical procedure.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein (i) the guide catheter has a tissue ingrowth member secured thereto, and (ii) the guide catheter positioning step includes the step of

advancing the guide catheter into the body so that the tissue ingrowth member is positioned in subcutaneous tissue of the body, further comprising the step of:

leaving the guide catheter within the body for a period of time sufficient to cause the subcutaneous tissue to become affixed to the tissue ingrowth member.

22. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

prior to the first medical procedure performing step, attaching the guide catheter to the body, wherein the guide catheter remains attached to the body continuously between completion of the first medical procedure performing step and commencement of the second medical procedure performing step.

23. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of locking the original conduit to the guide catheter prior to the first medical procedure performing step and after the original conduit positioning step.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of unlocking the original conduit from the guide catheter prior to the original conduit removing step.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of locking the replacement conduit to the guide catheter prior to the second medical procedure performing step and after the replacement conduit positioning step.

26. The method of claim 16, wherein the guide catheter includes a blood flow valve configured to restrict blood and air flow through the guide lumen when neither the original conduit nor the replacement conduit is located within the guide lumen of the guide catheter, further comprising the step of:

5 restricting blood and air flow through the guide lumen with the blood flow valve after the original conduit removing step and before the replacement conduit positioning step.

27. A method of performing a dialysis procedure with a catheter system
10 which includes (i) a guide catheter having a distal guide orifice, a proximal guide orifice, and a guide lumen extending therebetween, and (ii) a conduit having a distal conduit orifice, comprising the steps of:

 advancing the guide catheter within a body of a patient so that the guide catheter is at least partially positioned within a blood vessel of the body;

15 placing the conduit within the guide catheter, while the guide catheter is located within the body, so that the distal conduit orifice is advanced through the guide lumen and out of the distal guide orifice, whereby the distal conduit orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel; and

 performing at least one dialysis procedure on the patient using the conduit
20 while the conduit is positioned within the guide catheter and the distal conduit orifice is positioned outside of the guide lumen and within the blood vessel.

add a